

Transformational Proposal 1: An improved and Connected Public Realm

Public realm is a term used to describe areas where all members of the public have routine access to. It includes streets, public buildings, riverbanks, squares, as well as parks and green spaces. It can consist of many elements such as overall layout, shopfronts, architecture, street furniture, planting, signage, paving, footpath maintenance, colour schemes, traffic management, cycling and pedestrian facilities.

'The vision for Longford town is to develop a high-quality and connected public realm throughout the town which will facilitate all generations to congregate, relax and enjoy the urban environment.'



Proposal 1: Why is the transformational proposal important?

The consultation process undertaken as part of the development of this plan has identified the following challenges that can be addressed by this proposal:

- > A receding retail and hospitality provision in the town particularly at Lower Main Street due to parking issues and lack of public realm investment to date
- > A recognition that historically previous town planning and infrastructural interventions has led the built architecture to 'turn its back' on the river Camlin and with that the potential that the river could bring to improving the public realm appeal of the town
- > A requirement for safe pedestrian and cycle routes throughout the town centre
- > A requirement for increased provision of streetlighting for pedestrian use at night
- > A lack of structured and coordinated car parking infrastructure leading to traffic congestion in the main street and underutilisation of the car park provision in the backland areas of the main street
- > A requirement for more pedestrian crossings to encourage more town centre engagement and footfall
- > A requirement for more street furniture in the town centre (park benches) and greater use of interpretive and information signage to encourage dwell time
- > Residents have complained that street signage is too small and too high for pedestrian-level sight
- > A lack of public bins leading to increased littering on the main street
- > A requirement for more bus stop options leading out of the town centre



- > A lack of adequate space in the centre of town to use as an events space
- > The historical architecture of the town could be enhanced via further restoration and increased visibility via increased lighting of frontages
- > Improvements to remedial works undertaken to existing infrastructure after new public realm schemes have been completed
- > Incidences of anti-social behaviour at the Post Office site and at the underpass leading to Royal Canal walkway
- > Opportunities for further digitise street furniture e.g. introduction of more card friendly parking meters
- > There is a strong aspiration for a greener more environmentally friendly town centre
- > There has only been a modest uptake on shopfront enhancement schemes

Delivering the Proposal: State of Play

The following proposals have been identified to address the above issues and have emerged as part of the Camlin Quarter Urban Design Framework (September 2019):

1. Church Street and Barracks Plaza Improvements

Proposals for Church Street/Barracks Plaza include the redevelopment of public realm to promote pedestrian movement and permeability and encourage use of existing amenities such as the Albert Reynolds Peace Park (ARPP). The works will enhance the northern 'gateway' into Longford town (an architectural conservation area) and aim to support inward investment in the Barracks compound and the adjacent vacant Riverside Shopping Centre. The proposals also encourage permeability between Church Street and the Camlin river and enhancement of access to the ARPP on the Battery Road.

2. Little Water Street & Link Road

Proposals include the development of a link road that will provide a vital connection to Little Water Street from the Strokestown road and allow vehicular access to the Riverside Shopping Centre car park (currently vacant) with a capacity of circa 400 spaces. It is also proposed that pedestrian paths and cycleways will be installed along this link to provide access to the river and improved aporn for the length of Little Water Street, complementing improvements proposed to the Bridge Street Junction.

It is further proposed that a waterpark is developed to the rear of the Barracks property on the northern side of the river, incorporating a footbridge from Little Water Street over the River Camlin on the - the Southern Bank that will also link to the Barracks. The park will showcase town centre biodiversity and act as an extension to the ARPP amenity. This will also incorporate flood risk management and climate change adaptation mechanisms.

3. Bridge Street & Great Water Street

Proposals include works to the junction at Bridge Street to address accessibility issues and provide visibility and access to the riverside parkland, eradication of longstanding vacancy and dereliction and creating a coherent connection between the main street and local administrative functions. The project has been developed in cognisance of the refurbishment of the Civic offices at Great Water Street which anticipates the consolidation of local government facilities with other administrative functions.

It is further proposed that the Council landbank at Great Water Street (South) will be developed into sheltered housing units, benefitting from the existing remembrance Garden and the proximity of the shopping centre and other community services within the town core. Proposals also include the acquisition and refurbishment of the derelict corner building at the eastern end of Great Water Street/Northern end of St.Mel's Road.

4. Abbeycartron & Albert Reynolds Peace Park

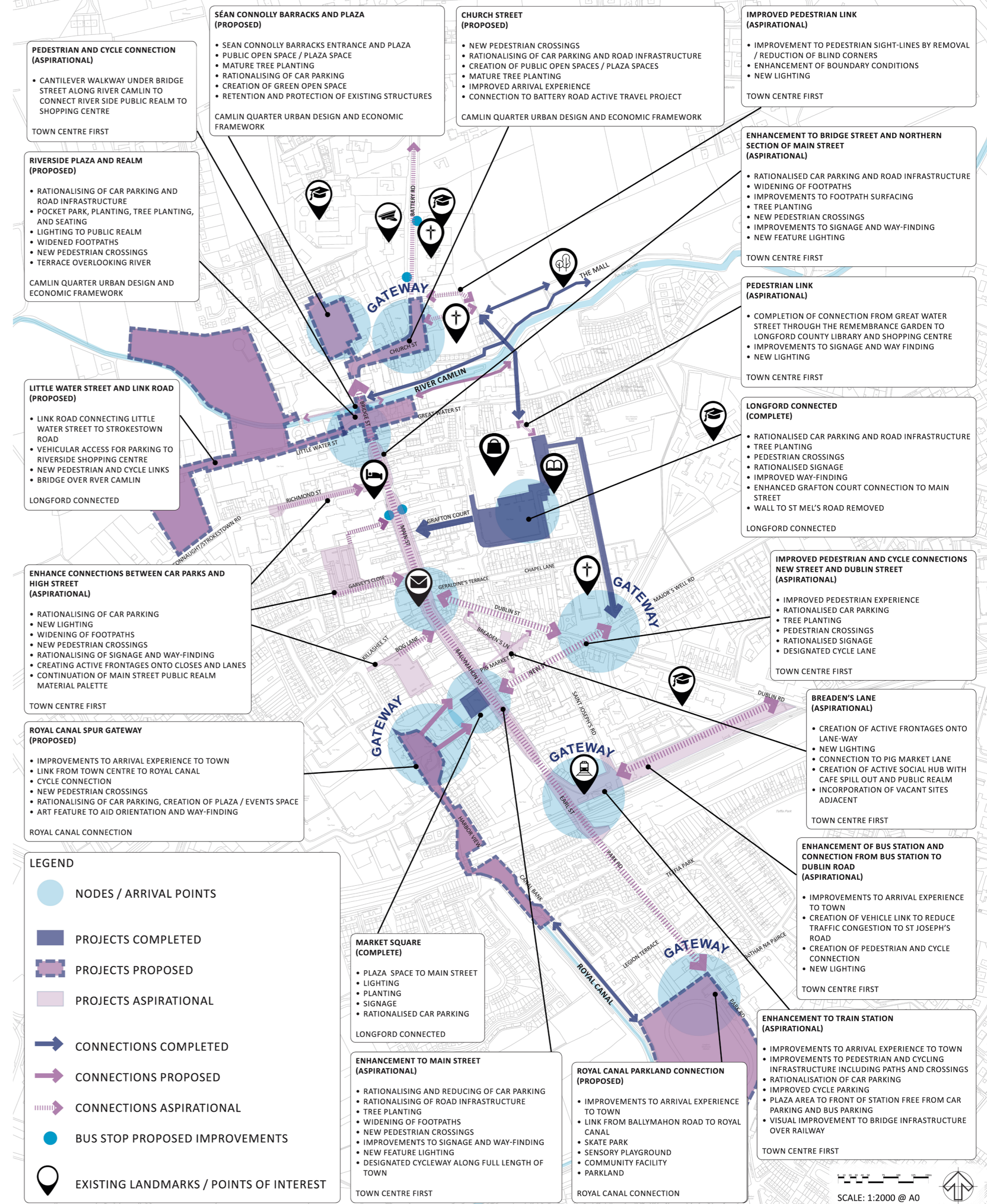
Proposals include the extension of the Albert Reynolds Peace Park (ARPP), provision of bus parking facilities to serve the sporting facilities in the Mall complex and the Longford Athletics Club, and also existing schools in the area where bus parking is currently on Blind Man's walk.

It is also proposed that a new pedestrian connection will be made between Abbeycartron lane, a large housing area to the north of the ARPP, through the park, facilitating pedestrian and cyclist access to the core area and employment areas and business parks to the eastern side of the town. This will include the provision of a carriageway over the Camlin river to facilitate access off the Ballinalee Road for Affordable housing sites/units to be established on the northern end of the Council owned landbank adjacent to the existing, well established Abbeycartron housing area.

5. Royal Canal Spur

Proposals include enhanced public realm design and wayfinding focused on improving the link between the Royal Canal Greenway and the Market Square where the original Royal Canal Harbour was located. This will include the representation of elements of the original Longford Spur canal channel into the town and harbour, reinforcing the existing disjointed connection between the Longford Canal Spur and the Town Centre.

The proposal also includes the installation of a strong art feature that will create a focal and reference point for the town, whilst also assisting in the orientation and way-finding between the Longford Spur and the heart of Longford town.



Delivering the Proposal: What needs to happen next?

Headline Action	Timeframe*	Action Owner
Church Street & Barracks Plaza improvements to commence subject to URDF business case sign off and to complete by the end of 2026. Estimated Cost – €1,834,883 – Funding of 75% sought from Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF).	Short Term	Longford County Council Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF)
Little Water Street & Link Road improvements to commence subject to URDF business case sign off and to complete by the end of 2025. Estimated Cost – €2,724,777 – Funding of 75% sought from URDF	Short Term	Longford County Council, Omniplex Cinema, Longford, URDF
Bridge Street & Great Water Street improvements to commence subject to URDF business case sign off and to complete by the end of 2025. Estimated Cost – €6,814,591 - Funding of 75% sought from URDF. These works will significantly address issues of dereliction, vacancy and declining economic return experienced in the Lower Main Street area	Short Term	Longford County Council Private Sector Partners URDF
Abbeycartron & Albert Reynolds Peace Park (ARPP) improvements to commence subject to URDF business case sign off and to complete by the end of 2025. Estimated Cost – €6,256,016 – Funding of 75% sought from URDF	Medium Term	Longford County Council Longford Athletics Club URDF
The Royal Canal Spur proposal will act as an interface between ongoing projects within Longford town to include the Royal Canal Enhancement Works supported by the Outdoor Recreational Improvement Scheme (ORIS) and the Longford Connected Public Realm Enhancement Project supported by URDF. Estimated Cost – €2,000,000.	Medium Term	Longford County Council URDF ORIS
To implement three new bus stop pairs and adjust one existing bus stop pair to route 975 in Longford town as follows: » Adjust – Longford Main Street/Town Centre » New – Battery Road » New – Pearse Park & » New – Clonbalt Wood	Short Term	Longford County Council NTA
To undertake preliminary assessments to consider additional proposals informed via the recent TCF consultation process and outlined in Figure 1 to include: » Proposed further enhancements to the main street (footpath widening, new pedestrian crossings, signage and wayfinding) » Further pedestrian linkages and enhancements to the pedestrian route off Church Street leading to the River Camlin, » Proposed enhancements to Bridge Street and the Northern Section of Main Street and the creation of a connection from Great Water Street through the remembrance garden to Longford County Library & Shopping Centre » Proposal to develop a cantilevered footpath over the Camlin at the Bridge at Lower Main Street to facilitate further pedestrian access at a level alongside the riverside and integrating into the vacant shopping centre. » Public realm improvements to Breaden's Lane » Enhancements to the Bus Station and connection from the Bus Station to the Dublin Road » Enhancements to the Train Station to include improved arrival experiences, and reconfiguration of car parking to provide better pedestrian access to the station and improve visual impact for the visitor » Enhancements to connections between existing car parks and the High Street (Garveys Yard, Court Lane & Weavers Court) and the use of electronic signage to direct drivers specifically to these car parks.	Short Term	Longford County Council
To set up a Town Centre First Interagency Forum that will be tasked providing oversight of TCF plan delivery with a specific emphasis on public realm improvements.		
The Forum should comprise of members of the Council's Regeneration team, nominated members from the Town Team and invited public and private external agencies. Short term actions to be taken forward by the Interagency Forum should include: » To undertake a review of street furniture provision within the town and provide recommendations based on identified need and an ambition to increase dwell time in the town centre » To undertake a review of street service infrastructure within the town and provide recommendations to address the following issues highlighted via the TCF public consultation process in particular i.e. • Bin locations and accessibility issues • Rectifying street signage height levels so that they are within better sight for pedestrians • Increased optimisation of interpretative signage within the town centre and identified public buildings e.g. Library • Improving street lighting at identified sites • Installation of sustainable 'smart' technologies such as EV charging points • Installation of public water stations (subject to public health issues being resolved) • Initiatives to reduce overhead cabling within the town centre • Initiatives to further improve tree planting and other 'greening' opportunities within the town centre	Short Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team
» To undertake a review of and lead out on climate action community schemes building out on the Tidy Towns initiative, encouraging the development of schools initiatives such as 'Neat Streets', encouraging further engagement in the annual 'National Spring Clean' initiative and creating more localised 'Green Communities' aiming to support groups via training and guidance to improve green sustainable approaches in day to day living and enhance local biodiversity	Short Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team
To develop a specific funding strategy framework that the TCF Interagency Forum can use to inform how the actions identified above and other emerging actions can be funded by the Council or by other third party funding sources	Short Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team
Further development of a Council led environmental improvement investment scheme that will allow both private owners to apply as sole applicants or in collaboration with identified third party agencies to deliver larger scale collaborative shop front improvement schemes and well resourced programmes of work to encourage the maintenance and upkeep of new and existing green areas and public rights of way To further animate and provide support to local business owners to secure grant opportunities	Short Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team Longford Tidy Towns Team

Transformational Proposal 2: An Integrated Sean Connolly Barracks and Plaza



Sean Connolly Barracks is a major asset for the town in terms of economic regeneration and tourism. The Barracks is a council-owned site of approximately 4 hectares. Its current vacant state negatively impacts the vitality of the town centre, but it has huge potential to attract inward investment, whilst there are also possibilities to develop the plaza in front of the Barracks and a greenfield river site to the southwest of the site.

'The vision for Longford town is to create a Sean Connolly Barracks and Plaza site that can be used to secure inward investment for economic development and tourism led initiatives and ensure benefits accrued are maximised at all levels'.



Proposal 2: Why is the transformational proposal important?

The consultation process undertaken as part of the development of this plan recognises the following:

- > The Sean Connolly Barracks and Parade ground is a site of rich cultural heritage with unique architectural attributes
- > The Barracks represents a unique urban characteristic focal point for the town representing a visual and physical link to the town centre right up to the Market Square
- > The grounds offer significant opportunity for increased amenity and recreation space and activity tourism space along the Camlin River
- > The forecourt represents the prime site within the town for significant events space
- > The Barracks site has potential for a varied range of accommodation provision to include the potential for hotel development

Delivering the Proposal: State of Play

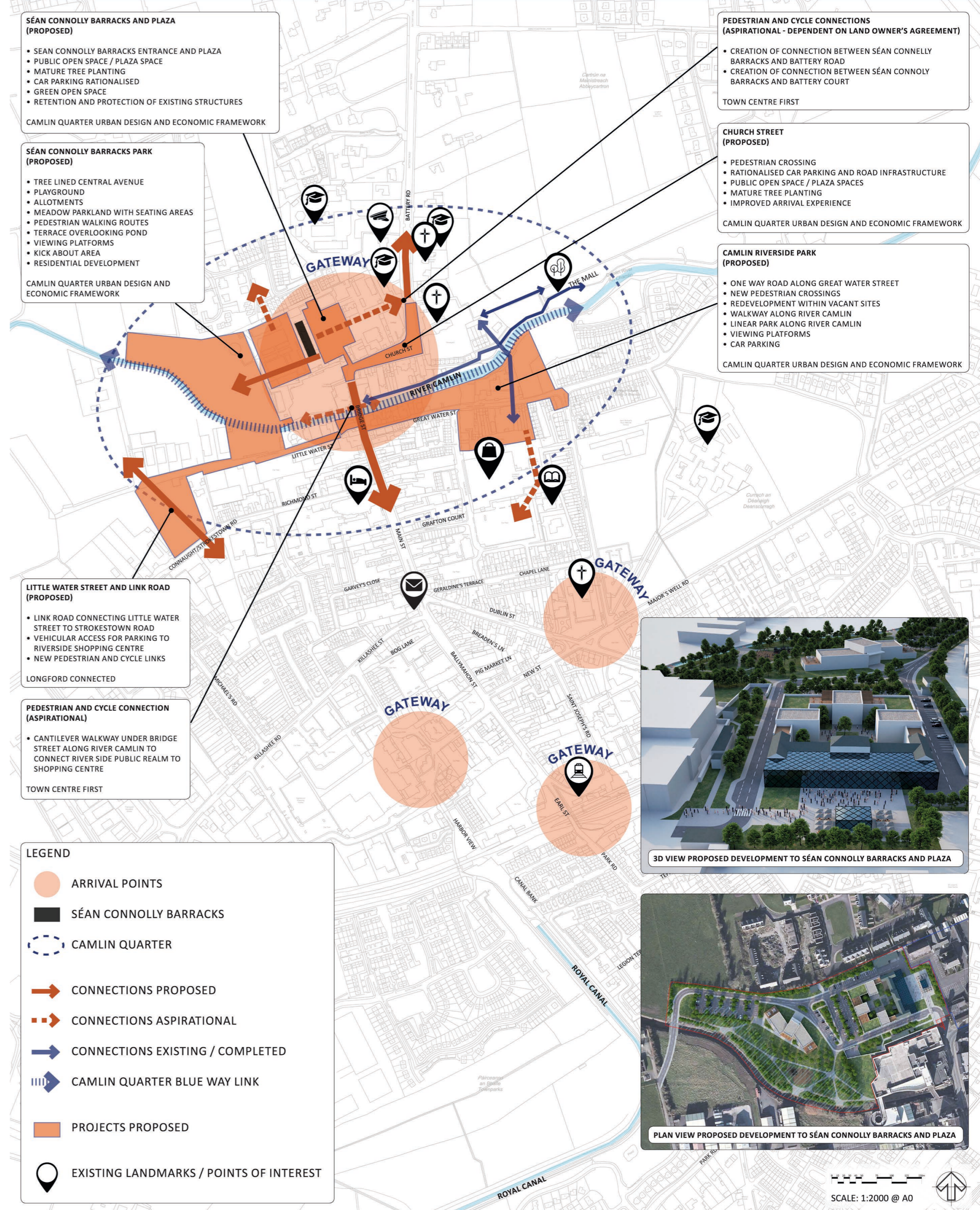
Connolly Barracks is identified as one of five 'strategic sites' in the current Draft Longford Town Local Area Plan and considered to be a 'regenerative catalyst within the town'.

The eastern side of the site, some c1.25 hectares and encompassing the majority of other buildings has already been acquired, adapted and utilised by the Longford Westmeath Education Training Board (LWETB) for office and teaching space.

As previously outlined under Transformational Proposal 1, it is proposed that a waterpark is developed to the rear of the Barracks property on the northern side of the river, incorporating a footbridge from Little Water Street on the Southern Bank as part of an estimated €2.7 million scheme. The park will showcase town centre biodiversity and act as an extension to the ARPP amenity. This will also incorporate flood risk management and climate change adaption mechanisms.

Further proposals for the Sean Connolly Plaza and site are detailed in Figure 2. These have emerged from the Camlin Quarter Urban Design and Economic Framework and include proposals specifically for the Barracks entrance and plaza, Church Street, and Camlin Riverside Park. These also include proposals for a link road connecting Little Water Street to the Strokestown Road to include pedestrian and cycle link proposals emerging from the Longford Connected plan.

Delivering the Proposal: What needs to happen next?



Headline Action	Timeframe*	Action Owner
<p>A priority action is to identify an 'anchor use' for the site – The following 'opportunity projects' should continue to be explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Undertake a market viability analysis on the potential viability of future potential hotel, tourism, cultural uses to include accommodation on site, with a preference for hotel tourism » Ensure that any future design proposals provide for a dedicated, high quality civic space on the former Parade Square and enable flexible civic use and events space and is prioritised to pedestrian movement and access » Consider an additional use of the site to host an indoor civic space that could accommodate a Arts/Theatre space and some atypical Council Services 	Short/ Medium Term	<p>Longford County Council</p> <p>URDF</p> <p>Longford Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB)</p> <p>Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF)</p> <p>Longford Tourism Office</p>
To be investment-ready as and when required, it is proposed to undertake a detailed survey of the former Barracks site and buildings to determine their structural condition and build on a visual survey that was previously completed.	Short Term	Longford County Council,
Ensure that any new build or new use proposals are sympathetic to the heritage setting and values of existing protected structures/buildings within the Barracks site and the wider Battery Road Architectural Conservation Area. This will require regular engagement with the Heritage Office with Longford Council Council	Short Term	Longford County Council (Heritage Office)
Engage with the Education Training Board (ETB) regarding the potential removal of the existing high fence and replace with a permeable landscape edge treatment	Short Term	Longford County Council LWETB
Engage with residents at Battery Court on access and permeability between the Barracks site and Battery Court	Short Term	Longford County Council Battery Court Residents
Ensure that any future design proposals include high quality distinctive paving, lighting and seating, trees in planters and soften hard landscape areas where appropriate.	Short Term	Longford County Council,
To monitor and consider any influencing factors borne out of the site being potentially used as an Accommodation Facility for Ukrainian Refugees over the next five years	Medium Term	Longford County Council
To develop a business case in conjunction with an appointed Integrated Design Team to take forward one or all three of the 'opportunity projects' identified and develop a funding proposal for significant investment.	Medium Term	Longford County Council

Transformational Proposal 3: Tackling Vacant Buildings and Dereliction

This proposal seeks to develop a targeted and focused approach to address dereliction and vacancy within the town centre. The proposal will rely on engagement between key partners and stakeholders to explore and encourage imagination and creativity in bringing vacant properties back into use for business and enterprise.

'The vision for Longford is to undertake a targeted and focused approach to address dereliction and vacancy within the town centre, with the aim to significantly reduce vacancy rates by 2040'.



Proposal 3: Why is the transformational proposal important?

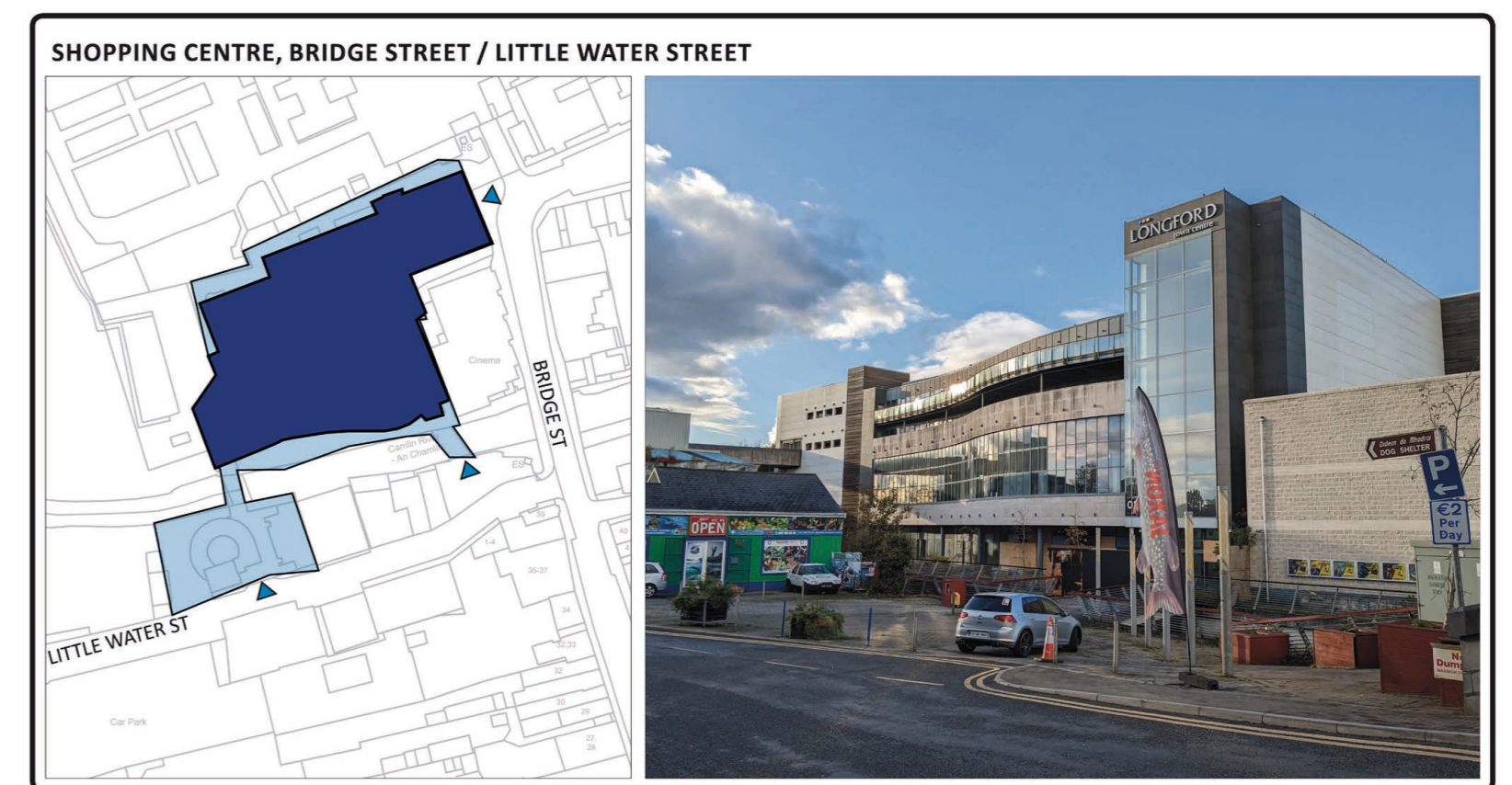
- > The Draft Longford Town Local Area Plan has identified 30 derelict sites, 2 vacant sites and 1 dangerous structure in Longford town.
- > Building vacancy rates/high level dereliction was ranked 1st biggest challenge in the town centre in the online community survey.
- > The online community survey highlighted that dereliction and vacancy rates in Longford are considered by residents to have serious negative social impacts on the town and the surrounding hinterland
- > The online community survey highlighted the high level of vacant buildings in the Lower Main Street leading to the Richmond Street junction
- > Previous investment proposals for Longford have highlighted the requirement for a greater hospitality offering, hotel accommodation, in particular a boutique hotel offering, a creative arts space and exhibition hub, a community resource and education space, and an economic innovation hub.
- > Addressing vacancy and maximising the use of existing housing stock is a primary objective of Government. The reuse and regeneration of vacant properties in the town can also unlock greater potential for the private sector to invest in much needed housing and have a transformative impact

Delivering the Proposal: State of Play

Longford County Council is leading a process to document a list of all vacant and derelict properties in Longford Town on a regular basis. Of those properties identified, Figure 3 outlines five potential areas for vacant property revitalisation but these can be subject to change due to further consultation on feasibility of use:

1. Providers Building,
2. The Vacant Shopping Centre – Bridge Street/Little Water Street
3. Old Post Office Building, Main Street
4. Mac Guinness Building, Main Street
5. The former Xtra Vision Building, Main Street

- > The Providers Building is currently in Council ownership and the existing first floor space available (570sqm) currently benefits from an open plan arrangement which has versatility in its layout and construction, with high ceilings, lift access and floor to ceiling external glazing running the entire street frontage.
- > The vacant Shopping Centre at Bridge Street/Little Water street was constructed in 2008 but has been vacant since 2010. The Omniplex group acquired the property in 2018. The centre has about 73,000 square foot of retail space over two floors and has the capacity for up to several dozen retail outlets. The Omniplex group currently operates a four screen cinema adjacent to the Shopping Centre.
- > The Old Post Office building is privately owned and has been vacant since 1990.
- > The Mac Guinness Building is privately owned and has been vacant since 2006.
- > The former Xtra Vision site is privately owned and vacant since 2016.



LEGEND
■ BUILDING
■ ASSOCIATED LAND
▶ ENTRANCES

Delivering the Proposal: What needs to happen next?

Headline Action	Timeframe*	Action Owner
To work with the Vacant Homes Officer(s) within the Council to carry out a detailed assessment of vacant properties in Longford and establish a baseline status in terms of condition, ownership and vacancy. To ensure the Vacant Site Levys are in place promptly so that the development of vacant sites can be encouraged and the occurrence of land hoarding mitigated.	Short Term	Longford County Council (Vacant Homes Office) Longford Town Team
Organise and facilitate a series of workshops and information sessions on available funding opportunities to include the Croi Conaithe (Towns) Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant fund and the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) programme.	Short Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team
To prioritise vacant and derelict properties within the extents of Lower Main Street and Little Water Street for intervention	Short Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team
Undertake a condition survey of the following identified five priority sites to identify key areas for redress prior to potential reinvestment	Short Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team
Undertake a feasibility study (individually or as a composite) to include a market analysis and RIBA stage 2 design concepts exploring the potential use of the priority sites identified above for the following uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hospitality offering (particularly restaurants providing evening dining) » Accommodation offering (e.g Boutique Hotel) » Creative Arts Space & Exhibition Hub, » Community Resource and Education space, and » An Economic Innovation Hub » Family Resource Centre 	Short Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team
Develop a business case in conjunction with an appointed Integrated Design Team for use as a funding application bid for investment in one or more of the investment areas highlighted above under URDF or other identified funding streams	Medium Term	Longford County Council URDF
Encourage, promote and market the use of the Providers Building for 'temporary' community or economic use e.g. pop up businesses/shops, arts spaces, community based classes/services. Local events etc	Short Term	Longford County Council

Transformational Proposal 4: Walkways and River Access



This proposal aims to improve the pedestrianisation and permeability of Longford to create attractive, vibrant and safe places that are accessible by walking and cycling, as well as connecting Longford to its hinterlands and the wider region through active travel.

'The vision for Longford town is to create attractive, vibrant and safe places that are accessible by walking and cycling as well as connecting Longford to its hinterlands through active travel initiatives.'

Proposal 4: Why is the transformational proposal important?

The priority within Longford has been favoured towards the car and to moving traffic and goods through and around the town. Further consideration is required as to how people can be more active in and around the town centre, encouraging active travel, where limited infrastructure currently exists.

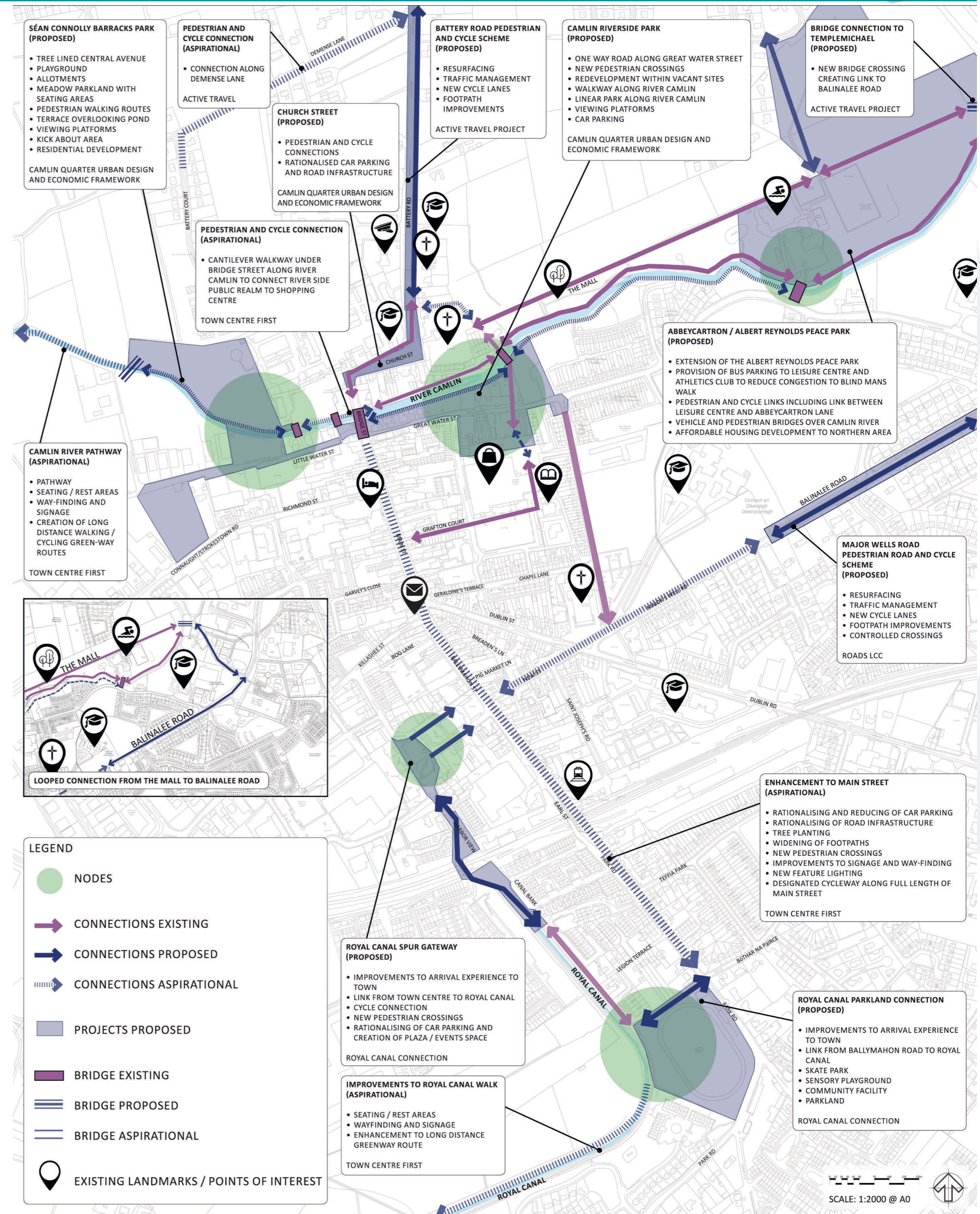
Delivering the Proposal: State of Play

A number of Active Travel projects have been delivered within the last two years at an estimated cost of approximately €2,250,400 via NTA Active Travel. These include:

- Setting back of boundary wall and new 60m footpath installed to link the pathway coming from the front of Aldi to Harbour row where none previously existed
- Shared path and priority crossing link from the footbridge to the rear of Aras an Chomtae across Camlin to link directly to Mall loop walk and Battery Road
- Installation of a raised coloured priority crossing with signage and tactiles across the entrance to Longford Mall
- Formalised short cut link on to the Royal Canal Greenway from Farranyoogan Estate across a green space that provides a key link for school students to the primary and secondary schools in the town and also to the bus and rail station
- Installation of a cycle scheme on Lower Battery Road from the entrance to St.Albans to the entrance of the ETB via the installation of bollards and line marking and the removal of car parking
- Narrowing of the carriageway and installation of new dedicated cycle tracks on either side of the N63 from the entrance to Oak Vale to the Ardmichael Junction (circa €2 million investment)

The following Active Travel projects are currently underway as follows and represent an investment of approximately €785 million via NTA travel:

- R198 Battery Road Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme (Pathfinder Sub Project) – The works zone for this project stretches from the Retail Park Roundabout ending between St.Albans and Longford Garda Station. The project will also include the rehabilitation of the Battery Road surface, the installation of traffic lights at Lisbrack Road Junction, the construction of right turning lanes at the entrance to Abbeycartron Lane and Demense, the realignment of Battery Road to include cycle tracks and continuous footpaths on both sides of the road, the construction of pedestrian crossing points, undergrounding of overhead power lines and installation of new public lighting
- N63 Ballinalee Road Pedestrian Road & Cycle Scheme (Pathfinder Sub Project) – The works zone for this project stretches from the Templemichael Terrace junction with the N63 out to the roundabout on the N4. The scheme includes new cycle tracks on either side of the road from the Ard Michael Estate as far as the entrance to The Laurels Estate, while a new footpath will be installed on the northern side of the road. Junctions along the road will also be made safer and more pedestrian and cyclist friendly, with a signal controlled pedestrian crossing being included in the N4 end
- N63 Farranyoogan Pedestrian & Cycle Safety Scheme (Pathfinder Sub Project) – This €3 million investment will see the construction of a cycletrack on both sides of the N63 from the Royal Canal Greenway to the Railway Bridge crossing on the N63. Expected to complete by the end of 2025
- Aghafad Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme – This investment will see the construction of a 3m wide shared path facility to link from the industrial units at Aghafad back into Longford town linking onto the Canal Greenway through Slashers GAA grounds and is expected to be completed by the end of 2024.



Delivering the Proposal: What needs to happen next?

Headline Action	Timeframe*	Action Owner
<p>Royal Canal Spur Link to Market Square As previously outlined in Transformational Proposal 1 it is planned to enhance public realm design and wayfinding focused on improving the link between the Royal Canal Greenway and the Market Square where the original Royal Canal Harbour was located.</p> <p>The proposal also includes the installation of a strong art feature that will create a focal and reference point for the town, whilst also assisting in the orientation and way-finding between the Longford Spur and the heart of Longford town.</p> <p>The proposal is estimated to cost €1.8 million and it is proposed that funding is sought from Fáilte Ireland, the NTA and URDF</p>	Short Term	Longford County Council Fáilte Ireland NTA – Active Travel URDF
<p>Pedestrian and cycle link bridge over Camlin to Templemichael and N63 It is proposed to provide a link from Templemichael along the existing cul de sac road off the N63 to include a new pedestrian/cycle bridge over the Camlin in the vicinity of the Old Bridge abutments. This will link directly to the existing Mall loop walk which links to Battery Road and complements the future development of the Northern environs and Abbeycartron Road area.</p> <p>The proposal is estimated to cost €2.5 million and it is proposed that funding is sought from NTA – Active Travel</p>	Medium Term	Longford County Council NTA – Active Travel
<p>Lower Battery Road & Church Street Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme It is proposed that the next sequential link of the current Pathfinder Sub Project progresses closer to the town centre with the provision of dedicated cycle tracks on both sides of the R198 and include pedestrian and cycle provision on Church Street.</p> <p>The proposal is estimated to cost €3 million and it is proposed that funding is sought from NTA – Active Travel and URDF.</p>	Medium Term	Longford County Council NTA – Active Travel URDF
<p>Town Cycleway from Church Street to Earls Street This concept proposal is to develop a town cycleway link from Church Street to Earls Street and it is envisaged to comprise of a number of sub projects to be delivered sequentially over a number of years. The proposal is also dependant on future decisions regarding the dilution of on street parking.</p> <p>The proposal is estimated to cost €7 million and it is envisaged that funding is sought from the NTA – Active Travel and URDF.</p>	Long Term	Longford County Council NTA – Active Travel URDF
<p>Demense Lane Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme This concept proposal is to develop a pedestrian and cycle scheme that will form an active travel link/shared path from Battery Court Estate to the R198 Battery Road. This proposal will require boundary adjustments and land acquisition requirements.</p> <p>The proposal is estimated to cost €300,000 and it is envisaged that funding is sought from NTA – Active Travel.</p>	Long Term	NTA – Active Travel
<p>Rugby Club/Lisbrack Road Pedestrian & Cycle Scheme This concept proposal is to realign Lisbrack Road from Lisbrack Downs towards the town centre with the setting back of the Rugby club boundary and the inclusion of an Active Travel link back towards Battery Road.</p> <p>The proposal is estimated to cost €400,000 and it is envisaged that funding is sought from the NTA – Active Travel.</p>	Long Term	NTA – Active Travel
<p>As outlined in Transformational Proposal 1, it is further proposed to develop a waterpark to the rear of the Barracks property on the northern side of the river, incorporating a footbridge from Little Water Street over the River Camlin on the Southern Bank that will also link to the Barracks. The park will showcase town centre biodiversity and act as an extension to the ARPP amenity. This will also incorporate flood risk management and climate change adaption mechanisms.</p> <p>This proposal forms part of the expected works to Little Water Street costed at €2,724,777 – Funding of 75% sought from URDF</p>	Short Term	Longford County Council Omniplex Cinema URDF

Transformational Proposal 5: Longford Town Identity and Marketing



A consistent theme emanating from the consultation and public participation processes underpinning the development of the Longford Town Centre First Plan is the lack of a distinct identity for Longford Town, its perceived image and how the town is marketed and promoted. A combination of factors leads to the town presenting a poor image and the perceptions of the town being on balance more negative than positive. These include the presentation of the town (public realm, vacancy, dereliction, quality and positioning of signage, lack of quality design and a lack of colour) combined with anti-social behaviour and the often negative news stories associated with the town.

Transformational Proposal 5 will seek to deliver on the following vision within the Town Centre first Plan:

'The vision for Longford town is to develop a more strategic, integrated and focused approach to the identity and marketing of the town as well as the marketing of specific events and activities in the town across the year'.

Proposal 5: Why is the transformational proposal important?

The community engagement and public participation process undertaken as part of the development of the Town Centre First Plan has identified a range of challenges which could/should be addressed by this proposal:

- Longford Town lacks a distinct identity and a supporting range of experiences, activities events and festivals which increase its pro-file and improve its perception. There is a need for a collaborative process which engages Longford Town Stakeholders to agree a vision and identity and actions which can deliver it
- Public art should be used to tell the story of Longford. Murals to highlight our Irish legends, i.e. the story of Mider & Etain and Long-ford legends. Engage with schools and local professional artists for ideas on how this could be progressed
- Explore Longford's music and literary heritage and make it more accessible through public art, festivals, a calendar of events and exhibitions; there is a need for higher level of coordination and collaboration
- Create a heritage trail in the town that brings people to see all Longford has to offer; engage with local historians, heritage groups and other relevant organisations to help to develop and communicate our history and heritage
- 'Clan Farrell' brings tourists to the area and host events – requirement to engage with the Clan to help build the Longford Town offer
- Make more of our waterways; identify sports and activities that could be provided on the river and examine the potential for blue-ways to complement the adjacent greenways
- Could Longford become an urban destination for fun water sports, boat excursions and other activities?
- Recognise and promote Longford as a multi-cultural and increasingly diverse County and Town; including what our new residents bring/do to enhance Longford and how we can support and facilitate to achieve this
- More outdoor space to hold community events
- Longford is too well known as a place to be passed through on the way to the West; turn this around into a tagline that might stick. Think of Mayo or other towns and how they are branded; create a brand
- Longford should have a designated museum and exhibition space. This could be created in the Town Centre e.g. the old Ulster Bank Building would lend itself to a 'Community Hub'; there should be a Tourist Office in this space; look at other towns that have central public space in old buildings e.g. Carrick-on-Shannon, a space for tourists and visitors to meet and explore local history and attractions, and to discover all that Longford has to offer. A space where local craftworkers/designers can display and sell their work maybe within a restaurant and public toilets. A space that is multi-purpose for local groups and organisations to use for meet-ings, events, and exhibitions
- Accommodation is lacking for visitors to the town; look at town vacancies and locate rental space i.e. Air BnB in town houses
- There is a perception by a significant number of people engaging in the public participation process that the town can be unsafe and this deters them from visiting at night to become involved in its nighttime offer
- There is consistent feedback that many of the young people around Longford travel out of the town to access what they perceive to be both a safer and a more varied nighttime economy offer in other towns; this has a negative economic impact on the town
- There are 'no go' areas in the town after dark; this must be acknowledged and initiatives taken to reverse this position in these are-as
- Whether it is a perception or a reality there is a clear feeling that Longford Town has a poor perception by people outside Longford and nationally
- There is a lack of bright colours, interesting spaces or interesting architecture to help to lift the quality and image of the town
- Significant stretches of vacant and derelict commercial buildings are a particular problem and reflect poorly on the image of the town; these could and should be repurposed for housing or community/cultural uses; this in turn would bring life and footfall to the town
- Groups of people loitering around certain areas of the town make people feel unsafe and this is perceived as being intimidating; the areas outside Tesco and the Post Office were identified as being particularly challenging for many people and yet both of these ser-vices are important in terms of their weekly activities
- The overall presentation of the public realm is dated and this does little to improve the image of the town
- The signage in and around the town is of both poor design and quality and therefore reflects poorly on the image of the town; many signs are poorly located
- There is feedback that the overall approach to signage is not planned or strategic; there is a clear feeling that it must be confusing for the external visitor
- There is a lack of any overall cultural, artistic or creative spaces in the town. These are important both in terms of the image of the town but also in terms of its offer to local citizens who would like to meet, socialise and become involved in creative activities but do not want to visit bars. Safe cultural space can be a keyway to help newcomers/asylum seekers to integrate thus encouraging bet-ter community cohesion

Delivering the Proposal: State of Play

Longford Town identity and marketing is one part of an overall comprehensive approach to addressing the issues. This proposal rec-ognises that much of what needs to be addressed of what has been raised by the consultation of public participation feedback will also be addressed by a number of other proposals including:

- Transformational Proposal 1: An Improved and Connected Public Realm
- Transformational Proposal 2: An Integrated Sean Connolly Bars and Plaza
- Transformational Proposal 3: Tackling Vacant Buildings and Dereliction

Other initiatives led by Council and others can also impact positively. These include:

- Nighttime Economy Officer and pilot programme
- Development of events and festivals (developing the current offer and introducing new events and festivals)
- The We Are Longford series of eight personal stories of people (reflects the diversity of the town) and their reflections and commitment to Longford Town

This proposal focuses on three of the other key elements to the improvement of the image, identity and perception of Longford Town. These are:

- Defining an identity and brand for Longford Town
- Addressing the reality and perceptions of anti-social behaviour
- Implementing a pro-active, positive and sustained communication plan
- Developing a strong events offer (linked to the night time economy)

Delivering the Proposal: What needs to happen next?

Headline Action	Timeframe*	Action Owner
Facilitate a visioning exercise to determine a shared vision/image for Longford Town (and perhaps County). This will bring together a range of stakeholders including Failte Ireland, those involved in the tourism, cultural, arts, nighttime economy sectors to review the current baseline offer and establish a 5-10-15 year vision for the image and offer to be developed within Longford Town. This action will require: » Bringing together and facilitating cross-sectoral stakeholders » Developing a Branding and Identity Options Paper » Agreeing a preferred Branding and Identity offer/option » Developing a Branding and Communications Strategy » This action will seek to jointly explore and develop opportunities locally and regionally through ongoing engagement with Failte Ireland	Short Term	Longford County Council Engage with Failte Ireland re: opportunities
Examine the possibility of introducing a community warden/community safety/anti-social behaviour warden scheme. Liaising with An Garda Siochana, the Longford Community Partnership and community leaders identifying areas that the public have identified as particularly challenging (in reality if backed up by figures or from a perception perspective). Actions will include: » Examining the impact of community wardens' schemes in other towns » Identifying a governance and line management approach for community wardens » Developing a budget to employ community wardens	Medium Term	Longford County Council Longford Local Community Safety Partnership
Review and implement a Community Cohesion Model. Acknowledging that there are intra community tensions/conflicts/flashpoints. An action would involve: » Reviewing approaches taken in other communities with a significantly high level of diversity (particularly an accelerated level of diversity) » Compare and contrast approaches » Agree a model which could be piloted in Longford Town » Agree a budget and make presentations/applications to secure revenue funding for a three year pilot programme	Medium Term	Community Safety Partnership
Develop a coordinated events strategy (development and delivery for Longford Town). This will seek to build on the success of a range of festivals and events including the Dead of Night Festival, the Ukulele Festival, the Longford Dream Space event and the recent Hallowe'en Festival. The strategy will examine how the success and impact of these events can be enhanced and identify gap in the annual calendar of events/festivals where new opportunities might be piloted. The strategy will be developed around the following themes: » Co-ordination and Programming » Developing Existing Events and Festivals » Piloting New Event and Festivals » Communication and Promotion » Funding and Resources This action will provide an overall co-ordinated Schedule of Events including those already promoted by the LCC Tourism Office and Longford Community Safety Partnership. A monthly update will be issued to each of the stakeholders aligned to the events strategy and reflecting any amendments or additions across the year e.g Tourism Office and Local Community Safety Partnership	Short/ Medium Term (and ongoing)	Longford County Council Failte Ireland Existing events organisers Longford Local Community Safety Partnership
Agree a 'Positive Longford' Communication Plan. This action will seek to build on existing communication activities including the Councils on/offline activities and initiatives such as 'We Are Longford' to sustain positive new feed/communication relating to Longford town. This could include attempting to secure Purple Flage Status for Longford Town	Short/ Medium Term	Longford County Council Communication Team

Transformational Proposal 6: A Social Community and Wellbeing Hub



The analysis and public participation processes underpinning the development of the Longford Town Centre First Plan have identified that many of its citizens live a life where they are exposed to social challenges in relation to health and wellbeing, education and training. These challenges are often exasperated by poor earnings and living in poverty. Longford Town is one of the most diverse towns in Ireland with new entrants from a number of foreign countries. This brings with it additional challenges (often language related) in terms of accessing services. Whilst there are Two Family Resource Centres in Longford County (Granard and Ballymahon) there is no such facility in Longford Town. Equally it is recognised that there needs to be some accessible focal point for people to access services, cultural activities, informal and lifelong learning and which is considered a safe and shared space.

Transformational Proposal 6 will seek to deliver on the following vision within the Town Centre First Plan:

'The vision for Longford town is to develop a Social Community & Wellbeing hub at an identified site where community organisations and the wider community can come together to access a range of social activities, health and wellbeing programmes, arts and creativity programmes as well as opportunities for social enterprise.'

Proposal 6:

Why is the transformational proposal important?

The community engagement of public participation processes underpinning the development of the Longford Town Centre First Plan have identified the following challenges and opportunities which could/should be addressed by this proposal:

- Old Providers Building - potential to have a social enterprise alongside a private enterprise (anchor tenant) with both generating foot-fall for Longford Town Centre
- Longford must have a Family Resource Centre to support the entire community, including the traveller community, asylum seekers and refugees that are resident in the area, people are coming to the country with little or no support and are finding it difficult to settle into the community and other minority groups. A Family Resource Centre could help these people and help Longford discover what skill sets they have that would be of benefit to the town, their social and emotional well being is important as they are residents in the community. It could provide practical help, e.g. Doctors, Teachers, Journalists, Engineers and other professionals without European recognised certification or qualification to gain these and enter the labour market
- Need for a 'drop in' youth café providing safe social space and information to support young people who need 'their own space'
- Provision of a youth safe social space near Garvey's Lane would help alleviate loitering on streets (due to shops and food outlets) and make for a safer environment for everyone.
- Need for a Community hub/house to support and inform 'marginalised' communities located alongside Little/Great Water Street. There aren't any Direct Support Provision Centres near that area of the town. The 'Roma community' need 'on the ground' support close to where most of their community reside
- Need for a Hub or support facility for homeless people, there should be at least somewhere to shower and receive food.
- Great Water Street could be a location for a community house in the town to support families, 'meet them where they are at'
- A designated area /space for Men's Shed to help alleviate isolation that provides social Inclusion/integration and connectivity for men and provision of intergenerational, health & wellbeing projects and programmes.
- A 'Hens Shed' (the same concept as Men's Shed) for ladies located in a hub or as a 'stand-alone' project (perhaps in a repurposed vacant/derelict building)
- Create a Social Supermarket. There are some excellent models to copy best practice from. These provide practical support through cheaper food products and practical advice on how to manage debt advice services without judgement

It is clear that there is strong support for the concept of a shared community hub/space/Family Resource Centre/drop in centre. There appears to be a number of different visions/models and potential locations for this transformational proposal. Equally there is a recognition that it must complement and not duplicate provision in existing community centres/spaces (e.g. Backstage Theatre) and with the existing Family Resource Centre in Granard and the Bridgeways Family Resource Centre in Ballymahon

Delivering the Proposal:

State of Play

At present there is no Family Resource Centre or equivalent community hub in Longford Town. It is recognised that the Family Resource Centre in Granard and Ballymahon provide well-respected and effective services. However, for many of the people requiring access to such services in Longford Town they are not accessible (a combination of the availability and affordability of public transport, language barriers or a lack of awareness). There has been a number of discussions (with TUSLA) around the potential to develop such a facility in Longford Town. The proposal is to carry out a comprehensive needs analysis and feasibility process which can determine the following:

- Quantify or establish the strategic rationale for such a facility and investment; how does it fit with national, regional and local strategy and policy (particularly that of TUSLA)
- Quantify the need; engage in detail with the range of people (by gender, by age, families, asylum seekers/foreign nationals, people with specific support requirements around disability, addiction) to assess demand
- Confirm a suitable site(s) with an emphasis on repurposing vacant or derelict properties (key site options likely to include the Pro-viders building, former Post Office and the McGuinness building)
- Examine a model; Family Resource Centre or hybrid which meets the identified need
- Engage an architect led multi-disciplinary team to carry out a site/building options appraisal and feasibility process
- Develop a Feasibility Study and Public Spending Code Appraisal

Delivering the Proposal:

What needs to happen next?



Headline Action	Timeframe*	Action Owner
<p>Establish a Project Steering Group to guide the needs analysis and feasibility study processes required to confirm the need for a Family Resource Centre for Longford Town. Typically, this should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Council » Statutory representation including HSE and TUSLA » Representatives of organisations providing access to services and supporting inclusion 	Short Term	<p>Longford County Council</p> <p>TUSLA</p> <p>HSE</p> <p>Longford Local Community Safety Partnership</p>
<p>Agree a Project Development Pathway which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Needs analysis and feasibility (The Providers building or others) » Site/building assessment and appraisal » Development of a Public Spending Code Appraisal Report 	Short Term	Project Steering Group
<p>Undertake a technical feasibility and project development process. Typically this should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Having agreed a preferred site/building option (or options) considering the Providers Building, former Post Office and McGuinness Building » Commence a design process leading towards a Part Eight Planning Application and begin the process of capital funding acquisition. 	Medium Term	Project Steering Group
<p>Examine the need for a shared multi-use/multi-functional hub space in Longford Town. This would provide an inclusive space which could/should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Social/drop in youth space » Arts and cultural space/exhibition space » Possible museum provision » Informal/life long learning spaces and provision <p>The process will also examine the potential actions emanating from Transformational Proposal 3 - Tackling Vacant Buildings and Dereliction.</p> <p>Key project delivery steps should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Consulting with potential users (organisations and the wider public) to establish what services and activities are needed, which organisations might provide them and the nature of/specification for the multi-functional space required to meet these needs » Undertake a site/building appraisal process considering existing and available vacant and derelict sites » Engage an architect led multi-disciplinary team to develop and cost design options, to support the Project Steering Group to agree a preferred option and to secure Part Eight Planning consent » Identify and apply to appropriate capital funders 		Project Steering Group

Transformational Proposal 7: Transport Links



Transport links are central to how Longford Town functions for its citizens; that is for people who live in and around Longford Town and use town as their focal point to access education, employment, services, social connections and their retail requirements. Strategically, transport connections from Longford Town externally to other settlements are also important. This supports people in those hinterland settlements to access Longford Town for many of the same reasons as those living in and around the town. It is also recognised that connections with the strategic regional and national transport networks are also important for people accessing employment and third level education opportunities and also to connect potential inward visitors to the town. There is a growing awareness of the importance of an active travel infrastructure in and around the town and connecting the town externally as part of the Council's wider approach to meeting climate change and climate adaptation targets.

Transformational Proposal 7 will seek to deliver on the following vision within the Town Centre First Action Plan:

'The vision for Longford town is to ensure that the town is an attractive place to live, work and visit through the appropriate integration of transport and land use, with a primary focus on ease of access for all by sustainable transport'.

Proposal 7:

Why is the transformational proposal important?

The community engagement and public participation processes underpinning the development of the Longford Town Centre First Plan has identified the following challenges and opportunities which could/should be addressed by this proposal:

- More public transport routes to nearby towns such as Drumlish to accommodate workers in the area. Various people from different communities work in factories outside the town and cannot access regular reliable transport to their place of work. Not only is this an inconvenience but it is incurring unnecessary costs to travel and therefore there is a lack of incentive to seek employment.
- Need to engage with employers and public transport providers to help arrange suitable and sustainable timetable/service
- More accessible cycle paths/routes to make for safer cycling throughout town
- Parking meters that use both coins, cards and apps
- A link road around Longford to help ease congestion in the town centre and especially in the west of town
- Need for a link road from Little Water Street to Connaught Road
- Lighting at the entrance to the car park behind Ballymahon Street is poor. There is also a problem here with bird droppings which are proving to be a slip hazard from Market Square. Maybe some sort of bird deterrent is needed in this area (the presentation of this and many of the backland carparks deters people using them to access the Town Centre)
- Address double parking on Main Street outside fast-food outlets and the laneway from Tesco car park to side of the TEAGASC building
- Community Transport scheme needed for pensioners and disabled residents.
- Provide local link transport services to estates around the town
- Connect all cycle routes and walkways around town to form 'loops' which support both active travel and increased participation in recreation and leisure
- Examine the potential for a subsidy scheme to help pensioners with taxi costs
- Improve frequency of public transport links servicing Longford from smaller towns; this is central to helping support improved accessibility to and economic performance of Longford Town/Town Centre
- Provision of more transport out the Athlone Road for access to the EDI Centre and Megabowl; this would increase the frequency of use of these facilities

Delivering the Proposal:

State of Play

It is recognised that a number of the transport opportunities identified to address the challenges raised through the public participation process are already contained within Transformational Proposal 1: An Improved and Connected Public Realm. These include:

- Little Water Street and Link Road.
- Bridge Street and Great Water Street
- Royal Canal Spur

There are also existing Active Travel Schemes being proposed as outlined in Transformational Proposal 4: Walkways and River Access.

There is an identified need to map and examine further active travel linkages between existing and planned housing and leisure developments (e.g. Greyhound scheme) and the town.



Delivering the Proposal:

What needs to happen next?

Headline Action	Timeframe*	Action Owner
Delivery of Planned Schemes: Longford County Council will continue with the planned delivery of schemes as identified in transformational proposals 1 (public realm) and 4 (walkways & river access).	Short Term	Longford County Council
Further examine enhancement opportunities in current walk and cycleways: » Lighting » Surfacing » Cleaning and Maintenance » Signage This might also be combined with a periodic Community Safety Warden Scheme to help address potential/current 'hot spots' for anti-social behaviour	Short Term	Longford County Council
Revisit some public realm and active travel proposals and map against current and planned housing and leisure developments and identify new active travel routes in response. (can this be refined to specific actions that can be delivered)	Medium Term	Longford County Council

Transformational Proposal 8: Unlocking the Backlands



Longford has the potential for a range of mixed development proposals, including a combination of residential, commercial and community initiatives in compact growth sites, in and around the town core, known as the Backlands. The potential for urban expansion through land assembly and amalgamation across key Backlands opportunity sites is therefore a key priority for the town and the inclusion of specific proposals focused on 'Unlocking the Backlands' is a recognition of this opportunity.

'The vision for Longford town is to unlock the potential of the backland streets via a range of mixed development proposals, including a combination of residential, commercial and community initiatives'

Proposal 8: Why is the transformational proposal important?

There are a limited number of backland lanes and streets in Longford town centre due to the scale of the primary street network in the town. Linkages do exist with a number of laneways in particular Garvey's Yard and Breadan's Lane.

A lack of structured and coordinated car parking infrastructure leading to traffic congestion in the main street and underutilisation of the car park provision in the backland areas of the main street. Opportunities exist to improve the attractiveness and permeability of pedestrian routes carparks within the backlands and in tandem encourage better utilisation of the car park provision available within the backlands.

The impact of any new commercial developments in the backlands also needs to be considered in the context of ensuring viability and vitality of the established town centre commercial core is not unduly compromised.

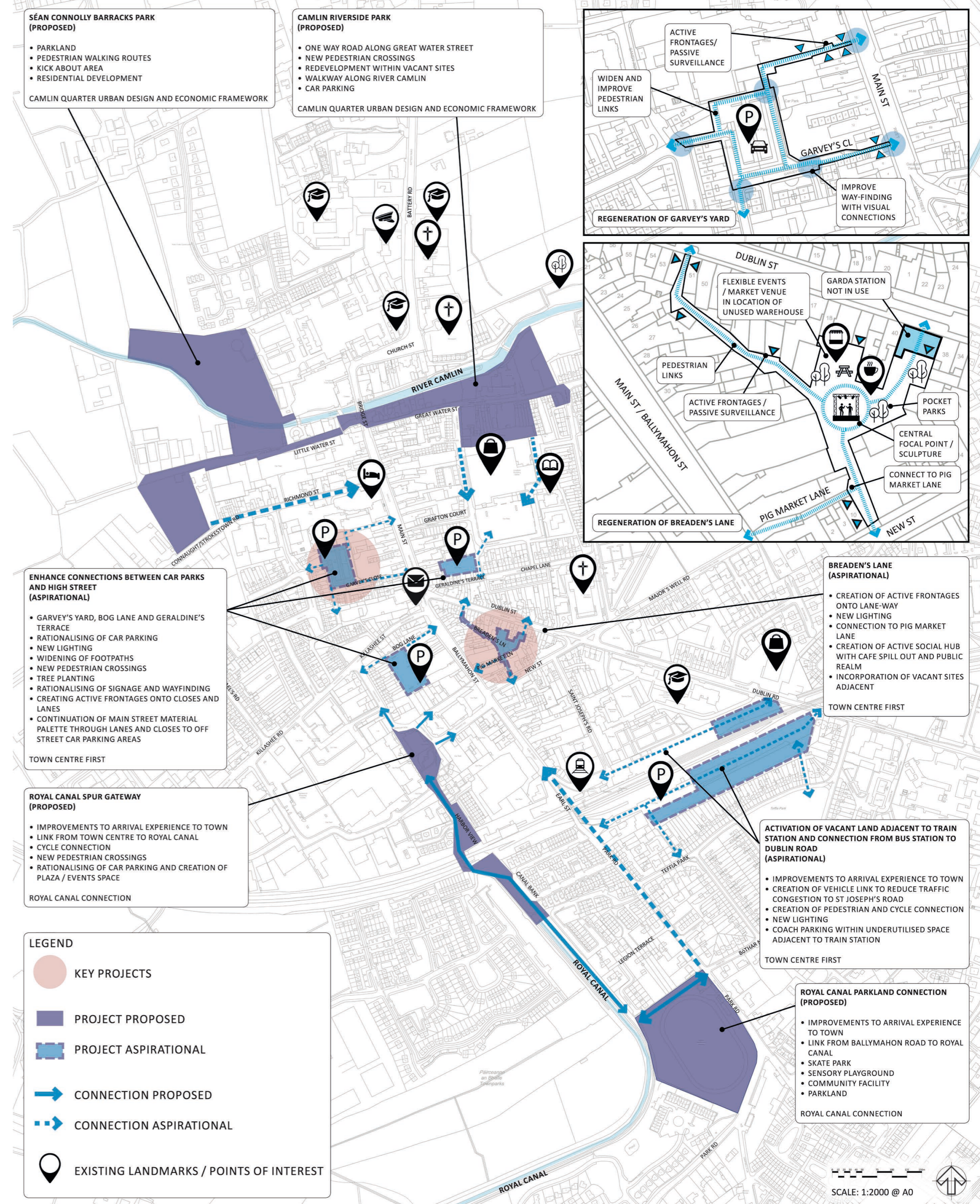
Delivering the Proposal: State of Play

Figure 5 outlines the two key laneways identified for backland development consideration, namely Garvey's Lane and Breadan's Lane.

'Aspirational' proposals emerging from TCF consultations for Breadan's lane include the creation of active frontages on to the laneway, new lighting, further connections to Pig Market lane and the creation a potential social hub with café spill out and public realm.

Figure 5 also identifies further 'aspirational' proposals to:

- » Enhance connections between car parks and the main street at Richmond Street, Garveys Yard, Bog lane, Weavers Hall, Court Lane
- » Enhance the aesthetics of the bus station by creating a plaza area to the front of the station free from car parking and bus parking and make visual improvements to the Bridge infrastructure over the railway
- » Reconfigure bus parking to an identified vacant greenfield site adjacent to the train station



Delivering the Proposal: What needs to happen next?

Headline Action	Timeframe*	Action Owner
Establishment of an 'Unlocking the Backlands' working group to explore innovative, best practice projects that could be implemented to repurpose backland spaces to include proposals identified in Figure 5. This includes carrying out best practice visits to other towns as part of a capacity building programme for the Town Team	Short Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team
Carry out an initial review of existing Backlands space within Longford town centre and including the exploration of potential land assembly and amalgamation options or opportunities	Short Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team
Facilitate engagement with residents and landowners (private and public) to determine potential future land amalgamation and land assembly options	Medium Term	Longford County Council Longford Town Team
Liaise with landowners, National Land Development Agency and the community, in relation to the County Development Plan/ LECP (2029) to develop plans and future use for the backlands	Medium Term	Longford County Council National Land Development Agency Longford Town Team
In the short term to engage with Irish Rail to explore the option of reconfiguring car parking at the front of the Railway Station and to further explore opportunities to activate the identified vacant land adjacent to the train station for further walkway and green development and coach parking	Short Term	Longford County Council Irish Rail

Transformational Proposal 9: Housing and Town Centre Living



Town Centre First Policy focuses on making town centres more attractive for people to live in. This includes re-purposing much of the commercial cores of towns to provide housing options which suit the changing lifestyle of citizens or directly meet the housing crisis demand. This transformational proposal seeks to examine how additional housing can be provided in Longford Town which is aligned to the needs of existing citizens or people considering Longford Town as a re-location option.

Transformational Proposal 9 will seek to deliver on the following vision within the Town Centre First Plan:

'The vision for Longford town is to create an inclusive and liveable town centre that incorporates design actions to accommodate residents who shop, socialise and interact with the town centre and adhere to the needs of older residents in particular.'

Proposal 9: Why is the transformational proposal important?

The consultation process undertaken as part of the development of this plan has identified the following areas for consideration:

- Provision of incentives/schemes to business owners to regenerate space above businesses to provide living accommodation and apartments
- Create green space for small parks and pedestrian zones within the Town Centre to make it more attractive for people to live in
- Looking at vacant and derelict buildings within the town centre; Is it feasible for the Council to purchase and renovate some of these to create affordable modern energy efficient town homes for working families?
- Provision of energy efficient social housing options throughout the town
- Provision of safe supported and independent living homes for seniors and those with disabilities near the town centre which are close to services, amenities and spaces/opportunities for social connection
- More modern social housing provision in Great Water Street and the Camlin quarter; also improve the presentation of the existing social housing provision in these areas of the town
- Develop a playground/safe space for young children to prevent street play which is unsafe. Overcrowding at home means that there is a need for youth and young people to have safe social/play space other than at home
- Address overcrowding in housing; particularly for Roma Community

Delivering the Proposal: State of Play

The Council is currently developing an up to date list of derelict and vacant properties in the town centre. The Council is also in the process of delivering a number social housing schemes within the town.

There is potential to examine additional housing needs led schemes within the town to include:

- Retro-fitting of existing social housing stock
- Potential retrofitting of private housing stock and private rental stock
- Examination of age friendly/independent living accommodation schemes (mixed use) in vacant/derelict town centre commercial properties
- Progress on the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) Programme in the Town Centre



Delivering the Proposal: State of Play

Headline Action	Timeframe*	Action Owner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Delivery of existing housing schemes planned for Longford: » St. Michael's Road Void Programme » Great Water Street Further sites to be confirmed 	Short Term	Longford County Council
Develop a draft strategy for housing, identifying certain areas of town/streets that are most suitable for affordable housing and mixed tenure and identify an area for an initial pilot scheme.	Short Term	Longford County Council
Develop a case study on adaptive reuse of a building: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identify a building » Set out steps for reuse » Engage with landowners to inform of potential funding streams » Utilise Residential Zoned Land Tax to encourage landowners to progress upgrades to buildings 	Short Term	Longford County Council
Actively encourage private sector investment through enhance public realm, pocket parks, other identified initiatives etc.	Short Term	Longford County Council
In line with assessment of productive uses of the backlands in Longford town, also examine how these might be used to address housing need. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Mapping the backlands and identifying areas which have the potential to be developed as housing options (acceptable from a planning perspective and have sufficient space and access) » Liaising with landowners to establish their willingness to develop or release for housing schemes » Undertaking design and costing of options 	Medium Term	Longford County Council
Examine the potential to develop age friendly/independent housing options in particular. Actions will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Carrying out a needs assessment to confirm the volume of need and typical requirements (e.g. one bed/two bed, location, services) » Reviewing existing age friendly/independent living housing models to capture learning which can be used to influence options for Longford Town » Assessing site/building availability and carry out an options appraisal to confirm one/two site/building options » Designing and costing schemes and seeking planning consent and capital delivery funding 	Medium Term	Longford County Council